

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8664

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 07111

DEPT FOR OES, PASS ERDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRIORITIES IN ENERGY RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT

REF: A) PARIS 26011 B) STATE 301432

1. SET FORTH IN REFTEL A ARE THE CURRENT HIGHLIGHTS OF
THE FRENCH ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
WHICH REFLECT THE PRESENT GOF PRINCIPAL INTEREST OF
DEVELOPING FAST BREEDER REACTORS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF
COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR ENERGY, AND CONTAIN LITTLE SUPPORT
FOR MARGINAL SOURCES OF ENERGY SUCH AS SOLAR, GEOTHERMAL,
TIDAL AND WIND ENERGY. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION
IS PRESENTED TO AUGMENT REFTEL A TO MEET IN PART
THE REQUEST CONTAINED IN REFTEL B. IT IS ASSUMED
THAT THERE EXISTS IN THE DEPT AND AT ERDA GENERAL
INFORMATION ON FRANCE AND ITS GOVT STRUCTURE.

2. THE PRINCIPAL DECISIONS ON OVERALL ENERGY POLICY
FOR THE GOVT OF FRANCE ARE MADE BY THE PLANNING COUNCIL'
CHAired BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. THIS
COUNCIL WAS CREATED SEPT 25, 1974 AND GIVEN THE TASK
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OF DEFINING A MID-TERM AND LONG-RANGE PROGRAM FOR THE

ENERGY NEEDS OF FRANCE AS THEY RELATE TO THE ECONOMIC POLICIES FOR THOSE PERIODS. THIS COUNCIL MEETS APPROXIMATELY ONCE EACH MONTH AND INCLUDES AS MEMBERS THE PRIME MINISTER, THE FINANCE MINISTER, THE LABOR MINISTER AND THE STAFF FOR THE 5-YR PLAN. OTHER MINISTERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS ARE INCLUDED AS APPROPRIATE FOR THE TOPIC UNDER DISCUSSION. THE STAFF OF THE 5-YR PLAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FOLLOWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL.

3. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICIES CONCERNING ENERGY R&D ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY & RESEARCH, WHICH INCLUDES THE DELEGUE GENERAL A L'ENERGIE, RESPONSIBLE FOR PROPOSING MEASURES TO BE TAKEN WITH REGARD TO CURRENT ENERGY NEEDS AND SUPPLIES. THIS MINISTRY IS ASSISTED BY VARIOUS ADVISORY BODIES, SUCH AS THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON ENERGY, CREATED IN EARLY 1974; AND THE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON ENERGY, CREATED APRIL 12, 1975; AND THE COMMISSION ON THE PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY BY NUCLEAR POWER, CREATED IN 1975.

4. THE DELEGATION GENERALE A L'ENERGIE DIRECTS THE FOLLOWING OPERATIONAL OFFICES: THE DIRECTOR OF FUELS; THE DIRECTOR OF GAS, ELECTRICITY AND COAL; THE DIRECTOR FOR NEW ENERGIES (WHICH WAS CREATED ON APRIL 9, 1975, WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROMOTING ENERGIES NOT YET OPERATING ON AN INDUSTRIAL BASIS), AND THE AGENCY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ENERGY (CREATED ON NOVEMBER 29, 1974, TO PROPOSE GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES ON THE CONSERVATION OF ENERGY AND ENCOURAGE APPROPRIATE INDUSTRIAL MEASURES AND INFORM THE PUBLIC ON ENERGY CONSERVATION). ALSO ATTACHED TO THIS SECTION OF THE MINISTRY IS THE COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE.

5. IN 1973, (THE LAST YEAR WITH AVAILABLE COMPLETE DATA), FRANCE HAD A TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION OF 164.6 MTEP (MILLION TONS EQUIVALENT PETROLEUM) OF WHICH IT IMPORTED 121 MTEP OR 73 PERCENT. FOR 1985, FRANCE HAS SET AN OBJECTIVE OF LIMITING ITS ENERGY CON-

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SUMPTION TO APPROXIMATELY 240 MTEP OF WHICH 40 PERCENT WOULD BE IMPORTED. BY SOURCE, THE 240 MTEP WOULD CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING: 25 PERCENT NUCLEAR, 60 MTEP; 41 PERCENT OIL, 98 MTEP; 13 PERCENT COAL, 30 MTEP; 5 PERCENT HYDRAULIC, 13 MTEP; 15 PERCENT GAS, 36 MTEP; 1 PERCENT OTHER SOURCES, 3 MTEP.

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6. THE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES FOR FRANCE THROUGH 1985 INCLUDE 1) SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM AND MORE GENERALLY THE COMMERCIAL APPLICATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY SOURCES; 2) SURVEY AND DEVELOP TECHNIQUES FOR THE EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF OIL FROM THE SEABED; 3) STUDY AND ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER NATIONAL FOSSIL FUEL RESOURCES.

7. FRANCE IS ACTIVE DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY IN MOST OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS CONCERNED WITH ENERGY R&D. IT IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF CERN; THE IAEA; THE OECD, AND ITS NEA; THE COMMON MARKET AND ITS EURATOM; AND NATO'S CCMS PROGRAMS. WHILE FRANCE IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE IEA, IT IS CERTAINLY WELL-INFORMED ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE IEA AND A MEMBER OF SOME OF THE PILOT ORGANIZATIONS UNDERTAKING SPECIFIC ENERGY R&D PROJECTS FOR THE IEA. FRANCE HAS MANY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS OF A BILATERAL NATURE THAT INVOLV RIN VOLVE ENERGY R&D; MANY ARE WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND ARE DESIGNED TO SUPPORT THE SALES OF FRENCH TECHNOLOGY TO THESE COUNTRIES. IN ADDI-

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TION' FRANCE HAS FAIRLY ACTIVE PROGRAMS WITH ITS PARTNERS IN THE EC, SUCH AS THE FRG, ITALY, AND THE UK. FRANCE HAS ACTIVE COOPERATION IN THE RESEARCH ASPECTS OF VARIOUS FIELDS OF ENERGY WITH THE SOVIET UNION, WITH CHINA, AS WELL AS WITH THE U.S.

8. THE FOLLOWING DATA IS PRESENTED AS AN UPDATE OF THAT CONTAINED IN REFTEL A:

BUDGET - MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

	1975	1976	
NUCLEAR ENERGY (CEA)	-	276	311
FOSSIL FUELS (DGRST, CNEXO, BRGM,			
OTHERS)	-	8	17
NEW ENERGIES - SOLAR (DGRST, CEA,			
CNRS, CNES)	6	9	
GEOTHERMAL (DGRST, CEA,			
BRGM, CNRS)	-	3	4
HYDROGEN (DGRST, CEA)	-	1.7	2.6
SEA & WIND ENERGY (CNEXO)		0.6	0.6
FUSION (CEA)	8.8	1.2	
MISCELLANEOUS - ENERGY CONVERSION			
FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH AT CNRS			
AND UNIVERSITIES	-	42	56

ABBREVIATIONS USED:

CEA - ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

DGRST - GENERAL DELEGATION FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH

CNEXO - NATIONAL CENTER FOR OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

BRGM - BUREAU FOR GEOLOGICAL AND MINING RESEARCH

CNRS - NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

CNES - NATIONAL CENTER FOR SPACE RESEARCH

NOTE: THE DGRST IS NOT AN OPERATIVE AGENCY OF THE GOF BUT RATHER A BUDGET AND PLANNING OFFICE FOCUSED ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE FRENCH GOVT. FUNDS ALLOCATED TO DGRST FOR ENERGY USE ARE MADE AVAILABLE BY THAT OFFICE FOR MEETING UNSCHEDULED PRIORITY DEMANDS SUCH AS NEW PROGRAMS OR REQUIREMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS NOT FORESEEN AT THE TIME THE BUDGET WAS DEVELOPED.

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9. THE FOLLOWING BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS INVOLVE ENERGY, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE R&D ASPECT OF ENERGY:

ALGERIA: GAS SUPPLIED BY ALGERIA

BRAZIL: NUCLEAR COOPERATION - DELIVERY OF A FRENCH EXPERIMENTAL REACTOR OF THE MINERVE TYPE

CANADA: EXPLORATION OF COAL AND URANIUM RESOURCES AND EXCHANGE OF TECHNOLOGY REGARDING THEIR EXPLOITATION.

IRAN: BUILDING OF TWO NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. IRAN PARTICIPATES IN THE FINANCING OF EURODIF AND SOFIDIF. FRENCH ASSISTANCE IN THE BUILDING OF A NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTER IN IRAN IS IN THE FINAL NEGOTIATION STAGE.

IRAQ: FRANCE IS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING OF PERSONNEL FOR NUCLEAR FACILITIES.

INDIA: BILATERAL COOPERATION INCLUDES BUILDING OF POWER AND HYDRAULIC ELECTRICAL STATIONS AS WELL AS COOPERATION IN BREEDER REACTOR TECHNOLOGY.

JAPAN: COOPERATION INCLUDES EXPLORATION FOR URANIUM RESOURCES IN MAURITANIA.

LIBYA: OIL IS SUPPLIED TO FRANCE BY LIBYA; FRENCH TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HYDRAULIC POWER STATIONS.

PAKISTAN: FRANCE IS PROVIDING A NUCLEAR REPROCESSING

PILOT PLANT.
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POLAND: COAL IS SUPPLIED FROM POLAND.

RUMANIA: FRENCH TECHNOLOGY IS UTILIZED FOR GAS AND
OIL EXPLORATION.

USSR: GAS IS SUPPLIED BY THE USSR. COOPERATION CON-
TINUES IN THE AREA OF PEACEFUL PURPOSES OF NUCLEAR
ENERGY.

SWITZERLAND: COOPERATION IN BUILDING A NUCLEAR POWER
PLANT.

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